

---

## Abstracts

### An economic assessment of twin births in British dairy herds

*R. G. Eddy, O. Davies, C. David*

*Veterinary Record (1991) 129, 526-529*

The effect of twinning on the subsequent health, production and reproductive performance of dairy cattle was studied by analysing the data derived from 19,755 calvings which occurred during three years on 37 farms. The data formed part of the database of a veterinary practice operating the DAISY dairy cow recording scheme for its dairy farmer clients. The average twinning rate was 2.5 per cent. For first calf heifers the rate was 0.9 per cent, and the rate increased with increasing parity to over 5 per cent for cows calving for their sixth and subsequent lactations. Although they produced more milk than their contemporaries, twin-bearing cows suffered an increased incidence of retained placenta and vulval discharges and their calving to conception interval was extended by 33 days. Furthermore, 35 per cent of these cows were culled compared with 21 per cent of their contemporaries. The benefit of having more calves for sale was reduced owing to 15 per cent of them being born dead. It is calculated that producing twins resulted in an average loss of income of £ 74/cow, a deficit of 15 per cent compared with cows having single calves.

### Efficacy of tilmicosin in treatment of pulmonary infections in calves

*T. Picavet, E. Muylle, L. A. Devriese, J. Geryl*

*Veterinary Record (1991) 129, 400-403*

The efficacy of tilmicosin in the treatment of respiratory infections in calves was evaluated. According to a randomised block design, 58 calves with naturally occurring respiratory infections were treated with one of the following products: a single subcutaneous injection of tilmicosin (10 mg/kg liveweight) or daily intramuscular injections of 5 mg lincomycin and 10 mg spectinomycin/kg liveweight, for a minimum of three days. Both treatment groups initially showed similar clinical signs and their initial responses to the treatments were good. However, the tilmicosin treated calves improved more rapidly. Significantly greater improvements ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) were observed in their demeanour and appetite during the first 10 days after treatment began, and in their respiratory condition between five and 10 days after treatment began.